

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 1, line 2, after the Title; please insert the following headings and paragraphs:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

- 5 This application is a national phase filing, under 35 U.S.C. §371(c), of International Application No. PCT/DK2005/000083, filed February 7, 2005, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

10 Not Applicable

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

15 Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 6 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Within the technical field of hospital equipment and nursing equipment, a variety of patient or person lifts exist. A particular kind of patient or person lift[[s]] is rail-mounted and comprises a carriage for displacement along an overhead rail. Examples of patient or person lifts of this kind are described in, among others, US 6,523,295, US 5,158,188 US 5,530,976, 20 US 5,530,976, US 5,553,335, WO 8809159, WO 9709896, WO 03064312, DE 4337527 and EP 0 361 397. Reference is made to the above patent applications and patents and the above US patents are hereby incorporated in the present specification by reference.

25 Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 15 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The conventional rail-mounted patient or person lift comprises a carriage including a pair of wheels which co-operate with the overhead rail for the displacement of the carriage along the overhead rail. In most conventional patient or person lifts, a single belt is used, which belt is received on a roller powered by a motor for raising or lowering a yoke which is 30 suspended in the belt in which yoke a patient or person sling is suspended by means of which sling a person may be shifted from e.g. a bed to a chair or visa versa. Certain patient or person lifts are manually moved along the overhead rail, whereas others are provided with a motor for the displacement of the carriage along the overhead rail. The single belt patient or per-

son lift is of a ~~[[fairky]]~~ fairly simple structure, however, the structure suffers from certain drawbacks, in particular the risk that the sling, which is suspended in the yoke, may start swinging which may cause discomfort to the patient or person suspended in the sling. Furthermore, the use of a single belt results in that the single roller, by means of which the belt is suspended, has to be able to stand the weight of the maximum load and similarly, the one belt must be capable of carrying the weight of the patient or person and also the yoke and the sling. In DE 4337527, a rail-mounted patient or person lift is described, in which a motor drives a single shaft, on which two rollers are mounted for winding or unwinding respective lifting belts. Since a common through-going shaft causes both rollers to rotate in the same direction, the actuation of the motor provides a major torque, which causes the entire lift to generate a large momentum in the rail and may in the one alternative cause the lift to turn side wise causing ~~ineomfort~~ discomfort to the patient or person hanging in the belts or in the alternative, generate such extreme forces in the supporting rail, that the rail may be deformed or be loosened from its suspension.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 7 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The above drawbacks have to certain ~~extents~~ extent been eliminated in a structure described in US patent 5,553,335 according to which structure a single roller is used for the winding and unwinding of two belts, the one being positioned on top of the other. As far as the risk of causing swinging of the patient or person suspended in the sling is concerned, the structure eliminates this risk[.,.]. However ~~however~~, the use of a single roller for the winding of the two belts, the one being positioned on top of the other does not improve the function of the lift for the reason that during winding of the two belts on a single roller, the belt positioned on top of the other is shortened as compared to the belt underlying the first-mentioned belt and in doing so, the patient or person is caused to tilt sidewise. Consequently, the patient may feel discomfort when raised or lowered by means of this known two-belt structure and as far as the mechanical impact and requirements of load carrying capability of the single roller is concerned, no improvement as compared to the prior art single belt structures has been provided by means of this two belt structure.

On page 2, after line 20, please insert the following heading:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A particular feature of the present invention relates to the fact that the carriage is constructed as a two part carriage, the one carriage part includes a ~~including the~~ power supply and the other carriage part includes a ~~including the~~ lifting motor. In addition, separate units may be provided constituting a traction unit, which may be used for pushing and pulling the one or two part carriage relative to its supporting rail. Alternatively, the carriage itself or the one carriage part, or alternatively the other carriage part, of the two part carriage structure may include the drive motor for the displacement of the carriage along the overhead rail.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The above objects, the above advantages and the above feature together with numerous other objects, features and advantages, which will be evident from the below detailed description of a presently preferred embodiment of the patient or person lift according to the present invention is obtained by means of an electrically powered, rail-mounted patient or person lift comprising: a carriage for displacement along an overhead rail and having a housing, said housing including:

an electric motor having an output shaft[[],] ;

two lifting belts suspended from said housing for the mounting of a patient or person support, such as a sling or the like[[],];

two belt-receiving rollers, each having an outer cylindrical surface for receiving a respective lifting belt and co-operating with said output shaft of said electrical motor for rotating in opposite directions at the same rotational speed driven by said output shaft, thereby collecting said belts when rotating said output shaft in [[the]] one direction and discharging said belts when rotating said output shaft in the opposite direction[[],]; and

a power supply unit for the delivery of electrical power to said electrical motor from a battery power supply or alternatively, a mains supply.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 23 with the following rewritten paragraph:

As the electrically powered rail-mounted patient or person lift includes its own power supply unit, the lift is preferably separated from the AC mains supply which eliminates risk of electrical ~~ehœk~~ shock originating from the AC mains supply. The use of a battery supply is highly advantageous, however, according to an alternative embodiment of the patient or person lift according to the present invention, the lift is powered from the AC mains supply directly, in particular, in countries or continents in which the AC mains voltage is fairly low, such as of the order of 110-130V.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the presently preferred embodiment of the patient or person lift according to the present invention, the electric motor is a DC motor and for providing a complete separation of the lift from the AC mains supply for reducing the risk of electrical shocks ~~ehœks~~, the power supply unit is constituted by a battery supply including one or more rechargeable batteries.

On page 7, after line 28, please insert the following heading:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

On page 9, after line 23, please insert the following heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 17 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In Figs. 2, 3 and 4, sectional views are presented, in which the carriage 10 is shown in greater details. The carriage 10 comprises an outer housing shell 34 which is preferably made from light weight mechanically stable ~~plasties~~ plastic material such as ABS or similar high strength ~~plasties~~ plastic material. As is illustrated in Figs. 2 and 4, the carriage is composed of two parts, a top part 36 and a bottom part enclosed within the housing 34. The top part 36 includes a metal bracket 38 which supports two wheels 40 and 42, which are received within the rail 12. In Fig. 4, only a single wheel 40 is shown, however, according to an alternative embodiment, an additional wheel positioned symmetrically relative to the metal bracket 38 may be provided for establishing a more stable supporting structure. The bottom part 34 of

the carriage is connected in a rotatable swivel and bayonet coupling to the top part 36, as will be described in greater details with reference to Figs. 5 and 6 and includes two spaced apart metal plates 44 and 46, which support a motor 48 having an output shaft which is connected in a worm gear to a pinion 50 shown in Fig. 2.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

10 In Fig. 7, the rail 12 is shown, which rail is illustrated as constituting a transversal component of a frame including two side rails 80 and 82, in which the rail 12 is mounted displaceably for allowing the carriage 32 to be moved in an orthogonal motion system, as is illustrated by two pairs of double arrows 84 and 86. The double arrows 84 illustrate the possible motion of the carriage 10 along the rail 12 and the double arrows 86 illustrate the motion of the transversal rail 12 relative to the side rails 80 and 82. It is to be understood that the patient or person lift according to the present invention may be used in connection with a mono
15 rail system or as discussed above, in combination with a rail concealed within the ceiling of a room or any other rail system.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 24 with the following rewritten paragraph:

20 In Fig. 11, a modified version of the remote control unit is shown ~~designated by~~ the reference numeral 26'. The remote control unit 26' is intended to be connected to a separate battery power pack 26", which is connected to the power supply cords of the multi-core cable 90 through connectors 94". In the system shown in Fig. 11, the battery power pack 26" is simply shifted from the remote control unit 26' to a remote charging station and substituted
25 by a previously fully charged battery power pack.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 31 with the following rewritten paragraph:

30 In Fig. 12, an electronic circuitry of the power supply unit of the patient or person lift is shown, which diagram is a basically conventional micro processor based diagram, in which the voltage present on the terminals of the battery power pack is monitored by means of a resistor ~~including~~ included within a circular marking 120 and in which diagram the current supplied from the battery power supply is monitored by means of three series resistors in-

cluded within a circular marking 122. No detailed description of the diagram is presented, as it is contemplated that no additional description of the electronic circuitry is needed. The diagram generally serves the purpose of ensuring that the capacity of the battery power supply is always sufficient for performing a complete lift or the maximal allowable load and thereby to ensure that a person or patient using the patient or person lift may always safely operate the patient or person lift without risking being unintentionally positioned in an adequate lifted position without being able to be lowered or raised to e.g. a chair or bed.